

Upright Woman



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Preparing to Evangelize

by Charlene Nedland



Charlene Nedland lives in WI with her husband, Scott, the preacher of the Rice Lake church of Christ and SW graduate. She teaches children's classes, ladies classes, and speaks at ladies day events in WI. She is also active in numerous outreach activities to teach Bible.

We have an awesome responsibility set before us! I heard a few years back that there are 50,000+ various religious organizations. However, there is only one church authorized by Christ. What happened? As in the time of the Judges, "...every man did that which was right in his own eyes" (Judg. 21:25). So it is today. God is patient, wanting none to perish (2 Pet. 3:9), so we need to do our part in teaching the lost. Prepare yourself to evangelize! Here are some necessary steps to reach your goal. First...

KNOW YOUR BIBLE AND BUILD YOUR FAITH. Study the word of God every day. Find a time that best fits your schedule and then be consistent. From the beginning of time, Satan has tried to halt salvation for mankind. His appearance to Eve in the garden in no way stopped God's mission; it only changed the landscape. So study! You will be amazed at how your faith in God changes to a vibrant, living faith. Eccles. 12:13 tells us that "the whole duty of man is to fear God and keep His commandments." 2 Peter 1: 5ff tells us that your will faith will grow. And not only will you have faith, you will develop virtue, knowledge, self-control, patience, godliness, kindness, and love. Next...

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BE AN EXAMPLE OF CHRIST. Put into practice all that you learn. This is very important if you want to evangelize. We have learned how to speak (Eph. 4:29). We know how to dress (1 Tim. 2:9-10). We know how to serve (Gal. 5:13-14). Ephesians 4:24ff, tells us to put away bitterness and wrath and be kind, tenderhearted, and forgiving. You will find, without a doubt, that people with whom you come in contact will notice that you are different, and they will want to know what makes you so. Don't forget that this is a daily walk at home as well. Your family needs to see Christ in you also. Number three...

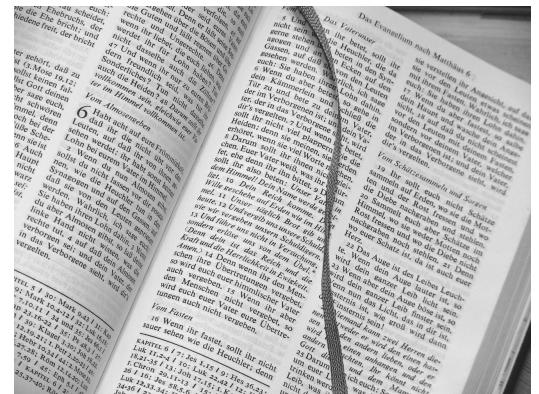
TALK TO GOD IN PRAYER MANY TIMES A DAY. God wants to hear from you. Christ prayed often, sometimes all night long (Luke 5:16, 6:12). Bring Him all your thoughts, joys, and worries of the day. As you begin to evangelize, you will bring the name of the one you are trying to reach before God, seeking His assistance. Jesus taught a parable on prayer in Luke 18:1ff. Please take time to read this account; it will truly bring a smile. The time has come. You are ready...

EVANGELIZE. Do I hear you asking, "Who?" Here are some suggestions to get you started: place tracts from the church in places you may go during the day; start a conversation of church events in the grocery store line, always remembering to portray a Christian example. Haven't got a response yet? Get to know your neighbors and ask them if they would like a home Bible study. You are on your way to evangelizing. To God be the glory!

Evangelism Strategies

by Nicole Whitacre

Recently, I had the privilege of meeting with the wife of the late Bobby Bates, who was one of the greatest evangelists of his time. Sister Wilma Bates shared several ideas about how to be a successful soul winner. One quote I will never forget is, "He who has no plan, plans to fail."



The home has always played a crucial role when it comes to opening the hearts and souls of people. We must earn the right to ask someone for a Bible study and our home is great place to start. It should be a comfortable and relaxing environment, but unfortunately too many of us are uptight and out of sight when we have strangers in our home. Remember what Hebrews 13:2 says?

Sarah is an excellent example of how ladies should welcome guests into their home. When Abraham invited three men into their home, he told Sarah, "Make ready quickly three measures of fine meal, knead it and make cakes upon the hearth" (Gen. 18:6). What would have happened if Sarah would have had a melt-down and refused to open her home? Furthermore, Abraham proceeded to help Sarah by killing and dressing the calf (Gen. 18:7-8). What if Abraham refused to help his wife? The husband and wife team can be a powerful force in personal evangelism.

Mary and Martha provide a good and bad example of what hospitality should be. First, let's commend Martha for inviting Jesus into her home. Unfortunately, after He came in, she was distracted by much serving, while her sister, Mary, was focused on the Lord (Luke 10:38-42). We must not forget that creating a relationship with our guests is more important than what the house may look like or how our food might taste. Jesus said, "But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her" (Luke 10:42).

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For the past twenty years, my husband and I have been inviting people into our home for the purpose of soul winning. After extending this kind of hospitality, we have always been able to transition into a Bible study. It is a great evangelism strategy! I want to encourage every lady to develop a plan to extend hospitality to strangers. It is one of the most successful ways to win a soul for Christ.

Words to Grow By

by Jessica Betz

Have you ever had an opportunity to talk to someone about the gospel, but you didn't? Either you didn't feel good enough, smart enough, or even old or wise enough to speak up? I would probably assume that this has happened to every single Christian, and it has definitely happened to me. So how can we as Christians, especially in our youth, put aside these fears and become better at evangelism?

I want to focus on the scripture 1 Corinthians 3:6 where the Bible says, "I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase." Each and every Christian, young and old, has a certain role that they must play in the kingdom. Oftentimes we neglect our responsibility to evangelize by having feelings of inadequacy, but we must remember that we are not in this alone. We can fulfill our role to plant, and let a fellow Christian water, while ultimately giving all glory to God for giving the increase in the kingdom. God doesn't expect us to do everything in the kingdom, but He does expect us to do what we can. Let us all do what we can to be better evangelists, and to bring others to Christ.

**I planted, Apollos
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the increase.**

Words of Wisdom

by Lee Stewart

In trying to ask people about a Bible study, one of the scriptures that comes to mind is Josh. 1:9. Let's face it, people are wired differently and some find it hard to talk with a stranger. I have never known a stranger, even as a child I would talk to my friends about the Bible. We all have our comfort zones, but we need to remember the courage of Joshua. It's not always a good idea to walk up to a stranger on the street and ask for a Bible study; they may think you are a fanatic or weird. In some countries, such as Jamaica, it is acceptable to ask someone outside their home for a study. They usually welcome visitors, but, sadly, in America it can be difficult. Prayer can help us overcome our fears.

There are many ways to break the ice with people to ask them to study or attend worship. You might talk to your neighbors about ladies class or where they worship. The Fishers of Men program has good ways to engage people by asking which questions interest them the most. One of my neighbors was visiting and I mentioned doing daily Bible reading. She said she loves studying the Bible, so I asked her if she would like to study together. Simple and effective.

A great place to meet new people is at worship and our visitation dinners. Introduce yourself and make a personal connection, you never know who might be receptive to the truth; it might surprise you! We should never judge people by their outward appearance because they could end up being strong servants for God when taught. If you aren't comfortable leading the study find someone who is and play a servant's part. Ladies, let's take what we have learned from the ARISE! Workshop and get to work. I think of the song lyrics "Lead me to some soul today, oh teach me, Lord, just what to say..."

Upcoming Events

- April 21, 2018
Colleyville Ladies' Day
in Colleyville, TX with Lisa
Puckett & Tracy Rhodes
- April 21, 2018
Shenandoah Ladies' Day in
San Antonio, TX with
Belinda Hernandez
- May 5-10
Focal Point 2018
- **SAVE THE DATE**
September 8, 2018 Adams St.
Ladies' Day in Beeville, TX
with LaKesha Garza

Word Study

by Avery Gerhardt

Boldness ("confidence," "fearlessness," "freedom of speech"):

The Greek word "parresia," meaning boldness, comes from the roots "παρ", meaning all, every and the Greek word "rhesis," as in "speech," the root from which we get our English word "rhetoric."

This helps us better understand that our boldness must be constant, and that it must be paired with reasoning and biblical logic (Acts 19:8). The word bold or boldness can be found 28 times in Scripture, with 11 of those times occurring in the book of Acts, a book with a strong focus on evangelism. The Greek word carries the idea of openness, plainness, confidence or assurance, and freedom to speak openly in public (Acts 26:26).

Do these descriptions paint a picture of my relationship with evangelism? Do I have confidence to speak plainly and openly with the world? For further study, look up the following scriptures that embody the attitude we are called to have (Phil. 1:12-14; Acts 4:29; Acts 9:27-28). Paul encouraged the Corinthians with these words in II Cor. 3:12 "Since we have such a hope, we are very bold." So let us be bold in evangelism!

About Upright Woman

The Upright Woman publication is intended to educate, promote, and encourage the women of the church to strive for righteousness in every aspect of life. It is the mission of this publication to provide women an opportunity to study the word and share articles about various issues and topics to encourage us to be upright women in an upside down world.

**"FOR THE LORD IS RIGHTEOUS; HE
LOVES RIGHTEOUS DEEDS; THE
UPRIGHT SHALL BEHOLD HIS FACE."
PSALM 11:7**



We pray that with every issue and with every article all glory is given to God.